

Shea, Valois

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 5:30 PM
To: Shea, Valois
Subject: Black Hills Uranium Mining Permits

I'm writing to encourage the EPA to deny permits requested by Azaraga/Powertech for injection drilling and exemption to Clean Water Act provisions at the Dewey Burdock site for the purpose of uranium mining. Even if there were a significant market for uranium (and there isn't), it would be a paltry sum in the face of possible clean up on site or, worse, contamination of fresh water aquifers in the surrounding area.

In coming decades, access to clean, fresh water will be one of the greatest problems we face as a nation and a planet. Aquifers across the US are being drained at unsustainable rates while many states neglect to pass legislation and regulations to conserve water now, before problems are widespread. One need only look at the Ogallala Aquifer that supplies the majority of plains states along with parts of TX and NM to see that a crisis involving water availability is a reality in some regions and is coming for other areas. One need only look at Flint Michigan in order to see that the affects of contaminated water are real, serious, and difficult to reverse. There is no reversal to brain damage from lead poisoning from pipes, so the idea that we play at contamination of fresh water aquifers with radioactive materials sounds naive.

There is no scientific certainty in the Powertech/mining lobby's claim that there is no way in which the wastes from this injection drilling and extraction process could contaminate other local aquifers. We have a nation dotted with oil and gas spills, with Superfund sites, and no company acting in its own financial interest admitted beforehand the risks. Instead, we the people pay with our health, our lives, and our communities.

And when it comes to water, what affects one community can affect all communities. TX--my home state--is planning on piping in water from other states (and Canada) should we continue as we are and finish draining off our aquifers. Other states have similar attitudes and lack of regulation. While one aquifer, one river contaminated may seem like a local problem, these things compound over time. We must treat water like a public resource--an entitlement that we owe to future generations. We want our great grandchildren to be able to grow food, to be able to live in the proud states and towns that we live in today. We want our children to not have to worry about cancer down the road due to uranium mining waste contaminants. And with climate change and the long term effects of poor water conservation today, some states or communities may require others to step up and share water. So, every fresh water aquifer counts. Every community matters. Respect local tribal peoples and their right to water to sustain their community. Respect all local people's right to clean water now and in the future, their right to access water without fear of finding out that it has at some point been contaminated. Respect the rights of all Americans to visit the Black Hills years from now. And respect all generations of future Americans who will need water. Water is life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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